

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A bracket comprising:

a bracket body having a fastening portion at one end, an extending portion extending outwardly from the fastening portion so as to be cantilevered therefrom and an article support portion at an opposed end of the extending portion opposite to said one end:

~~the extending portion~~ bracket body defining a plane along one side of the bracket body for lying against a surface;

a receptacle at the opposed end shaped and arranged for receiving an end of a cylindrical member inserted into the receptacle such that the cylindrical member carried thereby extends at right angles to the plane;

the bracket body having a top wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a bottom wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a first end wall at said one end and a second end wall at said opposed end, each of said top wall, bottom wall, first end wall and second end wall being at right angles to the plane;

the fastening portion having fastener receiving holes defined in the bracket body by which a fastener can be inserted along an axis of a respective one of the holes for holding a surface of the bracket body against a support surface for mounting the bracket body on the support surface;

the fastening portion having a first set of holes arranged through the bracket body at the first end wall with the axis thereof generally at right angles to the plane for fastening said one side of the bracket body against the mounting surface and having a second set of holes arranged through the first end wall with the axis thereof generally parallel to the plane for fastening an outer surface of the first end wall of the bracket body ~~which lies~~

~~at right angles to said one side of the bracket body~~ against the mounting surface;

the top wall being at right angles to the first end wall;

the bottom wall including a first portion of the bottom wall which extends from the first end wall toward the second end wall which converges toward the top wall such that a distance between the top wall and the bottom wall decreases as the distance from the first end wall increases;

the bottom wall including a second portion at the second end wall which is spaced from the top wall by a greater distance than an adjacent end of the first portion of the bottom wall so as to define a concave portion of the bottom wall between the first and second portions of the bottom wall.

2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (cancelled).
5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) The bracket according to Claim 5 1 wherein the bracket includes a center wall parallel to the plane and connecting to the first end wall at a center thereof and wherein the second set of holes includes a first pair on one side of the center wall and a second pair on an opposed side of the center wall.

7. (original) The bracket according to Claim 6 wherein each pair of holes is inclined at an angle to the center wall.

8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled).
11. (cancelled).
12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).
14. (cancelled).
15. (cancelled).
16. (cancelled).
17. (cancelled).
18. (cancelled).
19. (cancelled).
20. (cancelled).
21. (cancelled).
22. (cancelled).

ADD NEW CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

23. (new) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the fastening portion has a third set of holes arranged through the bracket body with the axis thereof generally parallel to the first set of holes and at right angles to the plane for fastening said one side of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the first set of holes being arranged at the first end wall and the third set of holes being spaced from the first end wall by a distance greater than the first set of holes and less than four inches such that the bracket can be fastened through the first and thirds sets of holes to a side face of a four inch wide wall stud.

24. (new) The bracket according to claim 23 wherein there is provided a stiffening wall joining the top wall to the bottom wall and extending parallel to the first end wall wherein the third set of holes comprises a first hole arranged at a junction between the stiffening wall and the top wall and a second hole arranged at a junction between the stiffening wall and the bottom wall.

25. (new) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the second end wall

connects an outer end of the top wall to an outer end of the bottom wall; the second end wall being parallel to the first end wall; the receptacle being located at a junction between the second end wall and the bottom wall and inwardly of the second end wall.

26. (new) A combination comprising:

a wall defined by a plurality of parallel, vertical wall studs each defining side faces and an outer face at right angles to the side face and a sheathing attached to the outer faces of the studs; and

a bracket according to claim 1 with the outer surface of the first end wall fastened to a side face of one of the studs and the side of the bracket parallel to the sheathing.

27. (new) A combination comprising:

a wall defined by a plurality of parallel, vertical wall studs each defining side faces and an outer face at right angles to the side face and a sheathing attached to the outer faces of the studs; and

a bracket according to claim 23 with the side of the bracket fastened to a side face of one of the studs by said first and third set of holes.

28. (new) A combination comprising:

a wall defined by a plurality of parallel, vertical wall studs each defining side faces and an outer face at right angles to the side face and a sheathing attached to the outer faces of the studs; and

a bracket according to claim 24 with the side of the bracket fastened to a side face of one of the studs by said first and third set of holes.

29. (new) A bracket comprising:

a bracket body having a fastening portion at one end, an extending portion extending outwardly from the fastening portion so as to be cantilevered therefrom and an

article support portion at an opposed end of the extending portion opposite to said one end;

the bracket body defining a plane along one side of the bracket body for lying against a surface;

a receptacle at the opposed end shaped and arranged for receiving an end of a cylindrical member inserted into the receptacle such that the cylindrical member carried thereby extends at right angles to the plane;

the bracket body having a top wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a bottom wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a first end wall at said one end and a second end wall at said opposed end, each of said top wall, bottom wall, first end wall and second end wall being at right angles to the plane;

the fastening portion having fastener receiving holes defined in the bracket body by which a fastener can be inserted along an axis of a respective one of the holes for holding a surface of the bracket body against a support surface for mounting the bracket body on the support surface;

the top wall being at right angles to the first end wall;

the fastening portion having a first set of holes arranged through the bracket body with the axis thereof generally at right angles to the plane for fastening said one side of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the fastening portion having a second set of holes arranged through the first end wall with the axis thereof generally parallel to the plane for fastening an outer surface of the first end wall of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the fastening portion having a third set of holes arranged through the bracket body with the axis thereof generally parallel to the first set of holes and at right angles to the plane for fastening said one side of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the first set of holes being arranged at the first end wall and the third set of

holes being spaced from the first end wall by a distance greater than the first set of holes and less than four inches such that the bracket can be fastened through the first and thirds sets of holes to a side of a four inch wide wall stud.

30. (new) The bracket according to claim 29 wherein there is provided a stiffening wall joining the top wall to the bottom wall and extending parallel to the first end wall wherein the third set of holes comprises a first hole arranged at a junction between the stiffening wall and the top wall and a second hole arranged at a junction between the stiffening wall and the bottom wall.

31. (new) A combination comprising:
a wall defined by a plurality of parallel, vertical wall studs each defining side faces and an outer face at right angles to the side face and a sheathing attached to the outer faces of the studs; and

a bracket according to claim 29 with the side of the bracket fastened to a side face of one of the studs by said first and third set of holes.

32. (new) A combination comprising:
a wall defined by a plurality of parallel, vertical wall studs each defining side faces and an outer face at right angles to the side face and a sheathing attached to the outer faces of the studs; and

a bracket according to claim 30 with the side of the bracket fastened to a side face of one of the studs by said first and third set of holes.

33. (new) A bracket comprising:
a bracket body having a fastening portion at one end, an extending portion extending outwardly from the fastening portion so as to be cantilevered therefrom and an article support portion at an opposed end of the extending portion opposite to said one end;
the bracket body defining a plane along one side of the bracket body for lying

against a surface;

a receptacle at the opposed end shaped and arranged for receiving an end of a cylindrical member inserted into the receptacle such that the cylindrical member carried thereby extends at right angles to the plane;

the bracket body having a top wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a bottom wall extending from said one end to the opposite end, a first end wall at said one end and a second end wall at said opposed end, each of said top wall, bottom wall, first end wall and second end wall being at right angles to the plane;

the fastening portion having fastener receiving holes defined in the bracket body by which a fastener can be inserted along an axis of a respective one of the holes for holding a surface of the bracket body against a support surface for mounting the bracket body on the support surface;

the top wall being at right angles to the first end wall;

the fastening portion having a first set of holes arranged through the bracket body with the axis thereof generally at right angles to the plane for fastening said one side of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the fastening portion having a second set of holes arranged through the first end wall with the axis thereof generally parallel to the plane for fastening an outer surface of the first end wall of the bracket body against the mounting surface;

the second end wall connecting an outer end of the top wall to an outer end of the bottom wall;

the second end wall being parallel to the first end wall;

the receptacle being located at a junction between the second end wall and the bottom wall and inwardly of the second end wall.